

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1-26. (Cancelled)

27. (Previously presented) An operating unit for a vehicle comprising:

a vehicle device operated by an operation signal;

a receiver adapted to receive a transmitter signal formed of an electromagnetic wave, said receiver being provided within the vehicle and outputting a control signal upon receipt of said transmitter signal;

a reference value setting means provided within the vehicle for setting a reference value corresponding to a target traveling speed of the vehicle;

a vehicle speed detection means provided within the vehicle which detects an actual traveling speed of the vehicle and outputs a vehicle speed signal;

said operating unit being adapted to compare the reference value set inside the vehicle with the vehicle speed signal based on the control signal outputted from the receiver so as to improve safety of the vehicle;

wherein when the actual traveling speed of the vehicle exceeds the target traveling speed, the operation signal is issued to automatically operate said vehicle device, and a repetitive comparison between the reference value and the vehicle speed signal can be implemented, while when the actual traveling speed of the vehicle is less than the target traveling speed, the comparison between the reference value and the vehicle speed signal by the operating unit can be ended.

28. (Previously presented) An operating unit for a vehicle according to Claim 27, wherein the vehicle device can apply brakes at least to one wheel brake by the operation signal.

29. (Previously presented) A vehicle operating unit for a vehicle traveling on a road which said vehicle has a vehicle device operated by an operation signal, said operating unit comprising:

- a transmitter provided adjacent to the road for transmitting a transmitter signal formed of an electromagnetic wave;

- a receiver provided within the vehicle which outputs a control signal upon receipt of the transmitter signal formed of the electromagnetic wave;

- a reference value setting means provided within the vehicle for setting a reference value corresponding to a target traveling speed of the vehicle;

- a vehicle speed detection means provided within the vehicle which detects an actual traveling speed of the vehicle and outputs a vehicle speed signal;

said operating unit being adapted to compare the reference value set inside the vehicle with the vehicle speed signal based on the control signal outputted from the receiver upon receipt of the transmitter signal so as to improve safety of the vehicle; and

wherein when the actual traveling speed of the vehicle exceeds the target traveling speed, the operation signal is issued to automatically operate said vehicle device, and a repetitive comparison between the reference value and the vehicle speed signal can be implemented, while when the actual traveling speed of the vehicle is less than the target traveling speed, the comparison between the reference value and the vehicle speed signal by the operation unit can be ended.

30. (Previously presented) A vehicle operating unit for a vehicle according to Claim 29, wherein the vehicle device applies brakes at least to one wheel brake by the operation signal.

31. (New) An operating unit for a vehicle according to Claim 27, further comprising a transmitter provided adjacent to the road for transmitting the transmitter signal.

32. (New) An operating unit for a vehicle according to Claim 27, further comprising at least one detection means provided adjacent to the road for detecting a danger state and outputting a detection signal based on detection of the danger state, and the transmitter transmits the transmitter signal based on the detection signal.

33. (New) An operating unit for a vehicle according to Claim 32, wherein the detection means comprises at least one temperature detection means for detecting that an atmospheric temperature reaches a given temperature indicating the danger state and outputting the detection signal.

34. (New) An operating unit for a vehicle according to Claim 31, wherein the transmitter is provided at one of a position of an opening portion serving as an approach to the tunnel and a position remote from the opening portion by a given distance.

35. (New) An operating unit for a vehicle according to Claim 27, further comprising an alarm unit being provided within the vehicle which generates an alarm to the inside of the vehicle based upon receipt of the transmitter signal.

36. (New) An operating unit for a vehicle according to Claim 29, further comprising at least one detection means provided adjacent to the road for detecting a danger state and

outputting a detection signal based on detection of the danger state, and the transmitter transmits the transmitter signal based on the detection signal.

37. (New) A vehicle operating unit for a vehicle according to Claim 36, wherein the detection means comprises at least one temperature detection means for detecting that an atmospheric temperature reaches a given temperature indicating the danger state and outputting the detection signal.

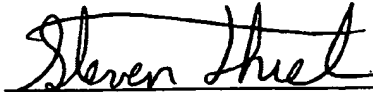
38. (New) A vehicle operating unit for a vehicle according to Claim 29, wherein the transmitter is provided at one of a position of an opening portion serving as an approach to the tunnel and a position remote from the opening portion by a given distance.

39. (New) A vehicle operating unit for a vehicle according to Claim 29, further comprising an alarm unit being provided within the vehicle which generates an alarm to the inside of the vehicle based upon receipt of the transmitter signal.

Dependent Claims 36-39 depend from Claim 29 and define features similar to those described above which depend from Claim 27. Hence, further detailed discussion other than that provided above is not believed to be required.

Based on the foregoing, all of the pending claims are believed allowable.

Respectfully submitted,



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